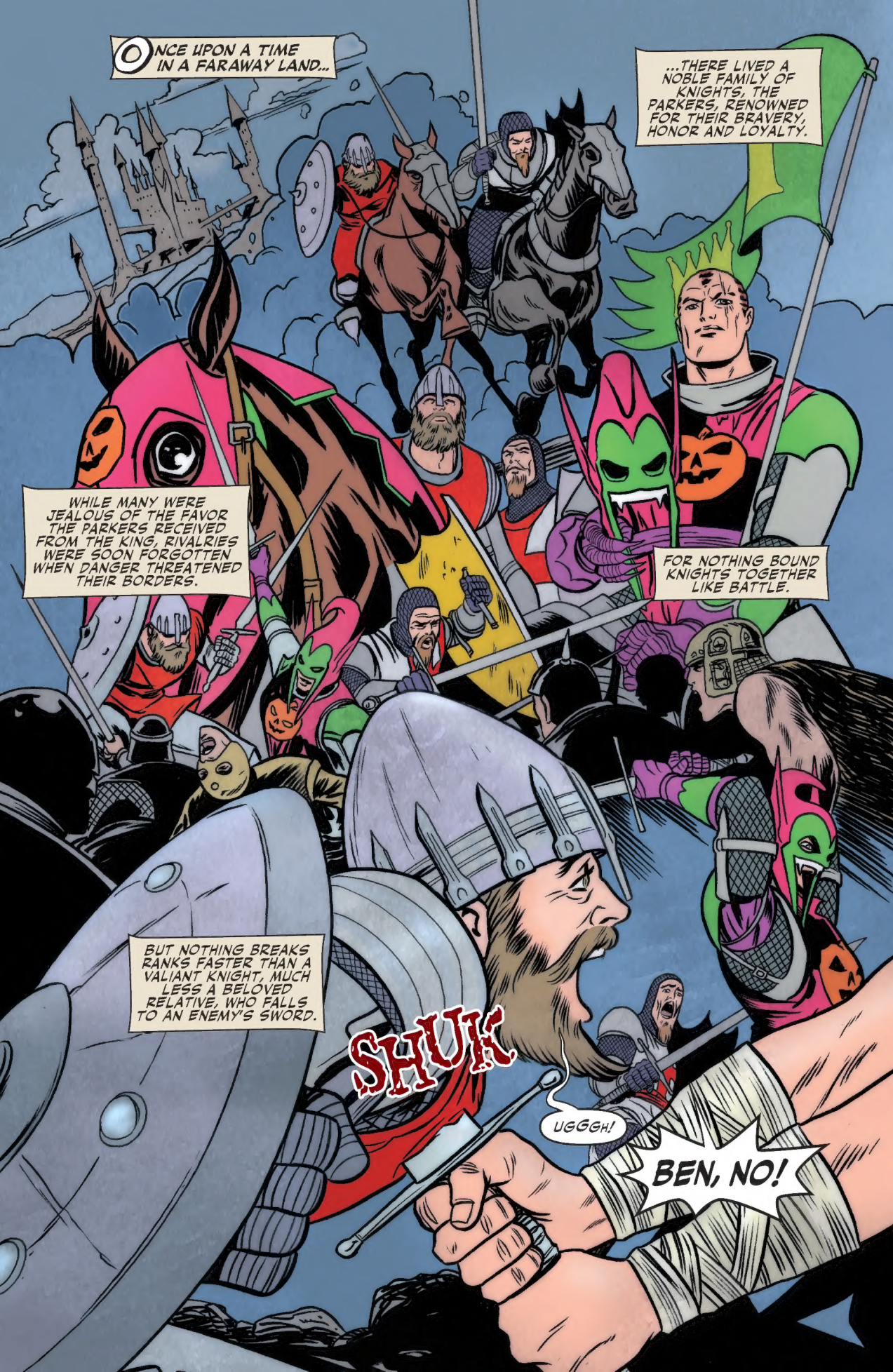
MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
4 OF 4
SPIDER-MAN
FAIRY TALES
DRAGOTTA ALL RED


ONCE UPON A TIME IN A FARAWAY LAND...
...THERE LIVED A NOBLE FAMILY OF KNIGHTS, THE PARKERS, RENOWNED FOR THEIR BRAVERY, HONOR AND LOYALTY.
WHILE MANY WERE JEALOUS OF THE FAVOR THE PARKERS RECEIVED FROM THE KING, RIVALRIES WERE SOON FORGOTTEN WHEN DANGER THREATENED THEIR BORDERS.
FOR NOTHING BOUND KNIGHTS TOGETHER LIKE BATTLE.
BUT NOTHING BREAKS RANKS FASTER THAN A VALIANT KNIGHT, MUCH LESS A BELOVED RELATIVE, WHO FALLS TO AN ENEMY'S SWORD.
SHUK
UGGGH!
BEN, NO!

GRIEF AND ANGER CAN CAUSE EVEN THE MOST STALWART OF KNIGHTS TO BECOME RECKLESS.
BENJAMIN! I'M COMING!
TO BECOME CARELESS.
BEN, IT'S RICHARD. I'M HERE--
SHUK SHUK SHUK
OSBORN? IS...IS THAT YOU, NORMAN?
YES, RICHARD, IT'S ME. NOW BE STILL, YOU'VE LOST QUITE A LOT OF--
NORMAN, PLEASE...ALLOW ME TO SPEAK, FOR I FEAR... THESE WILL BE MY... FINAL WORDS...
MY SON, PETER! WITH BEN AND ME GONE... HE'LL HAVE NO ONE...
I...I KNOW ...YOU'RE NOT THE DEMON...SO MANY BELIEVE...
...YOU'RE AN HONORABLE KNIGHT ...AND A MAN OF CONVICTION...
PETER WILL NEED A...A MENTOR. A FAMILY...
...NORMAN, PLEASE...WILL YOU...?
SAY NO MORE, RICHARD. YOU NEED NOT WORRY.
I PROMISE YOU THAT PETER WILL ALWAYS HAVE A PLACE IN MY HOME...

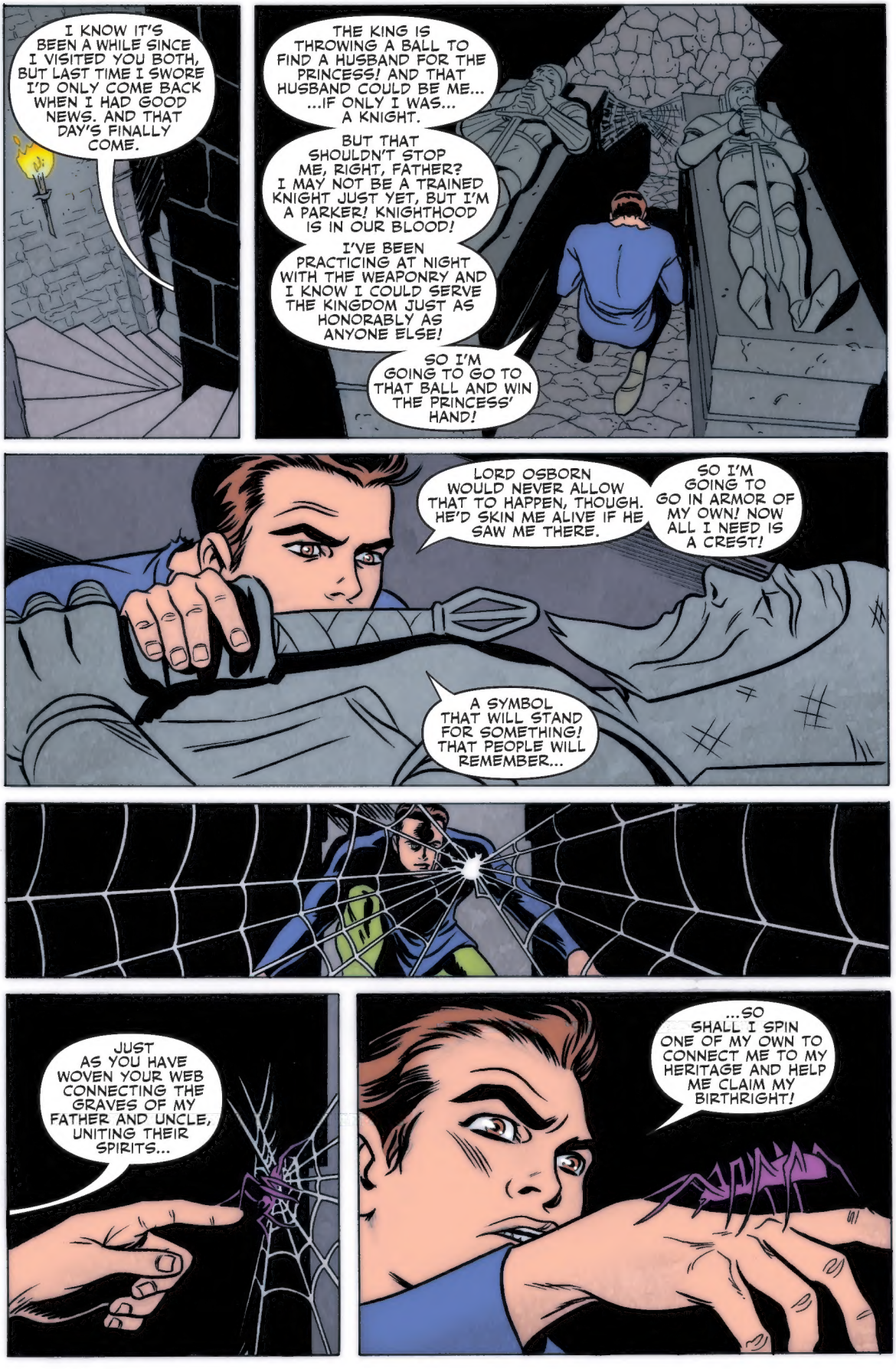
YEARS LATER...
HAVE AT YOU, DEMON!
SWOOSH
YOU'LL NEVER BEST PETER PARKER, NOBLEST KNIGHT IN ALL THE KINGDOM!
FIRST, LUNGE...
...AND LEAP. NOW JAB...

...THEN DODGE. AND FINALLY...
HIIYAH!
...OFF WITH HIS HEAD!
=COUGH COUGH=
THWOK!
=SIGH=
I'LL NEVER LEARN HOW TO BE A TRUE KNIGHT WITH A FEATHER-DUSTER FOR A SWORD AND FURNITURE AS MY ENEMY!
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE!
GWOOF
COFF
COFF
COFF
COFF
HOW I WISH YOU AND UNCLE BEN WERE STILL ALIVE, FATHER.
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN US UP THERE!
DAYDREAMING WON'T GET YOUR WORK DONE FASTER, TIGER.
GIVE A GIRL A HAND, PETER?
OF COURSE, MARY JANE. WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR--?
I SHOULD GIVE YOU THE BACK OF MY HAND, GIRL!

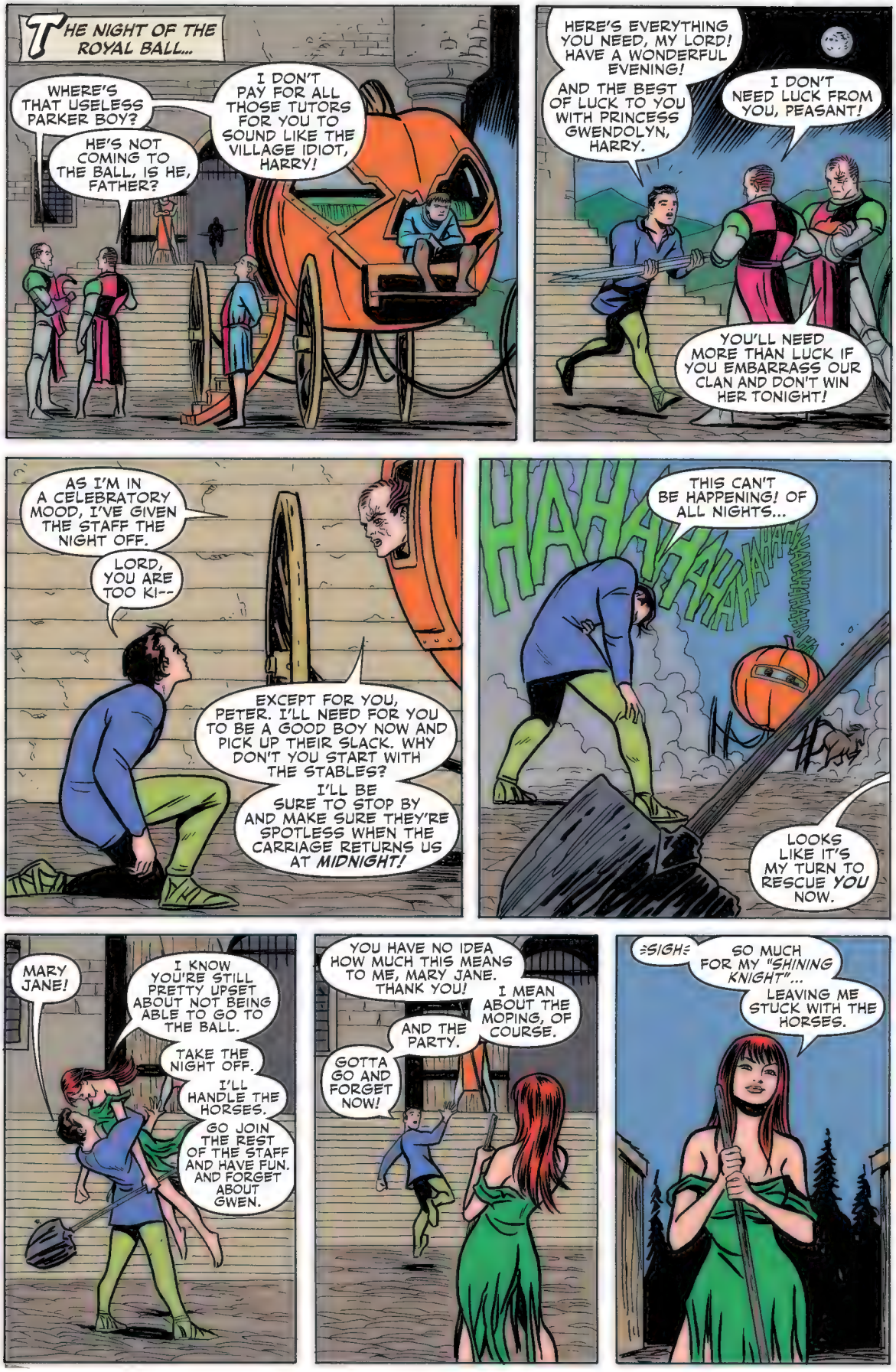
YOU CALL THIS POLISHED, WENCH?!
SIR OSBORN, MY LORD!
CAN YOU SEE YOUR REFLECTION IN THIS ARMOR?
SOMEWHAT, MY LORD!
WELL, "SOMEWHAT" IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME OR MY SON, MARY JANE.
OUR ARMOR NEEDS TO SPARKLE AND SHINE LIKE NO ONE ELSE'S!
SO YOU WILL RE-POLISH MY ENTIRE SUIT TONIGHT!
BUT MY LORD...
AND HARRY'S AS WELL! HIS BIG DAY IS COMING UP! HE NEEDS TO LOOK HIS BEST!
BUT MY LORD...
NO BUT'S ABOUT IT, MARY...
...UNLESS YOU WANT TO FIND YOURSELF "SOMEWHAT" HOMELESS!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GET ALL THIS DONE TONIGHT.
I'VE GOT PILES OF LINENS TO WASH FOR THE LADY FELICIA BY TOMORROW.
AS I WAS SAYING EARLIER, MARY JANE...
...WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR, IF NOT LENDING A HELPING HAND?!
OH, PETER... YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR!

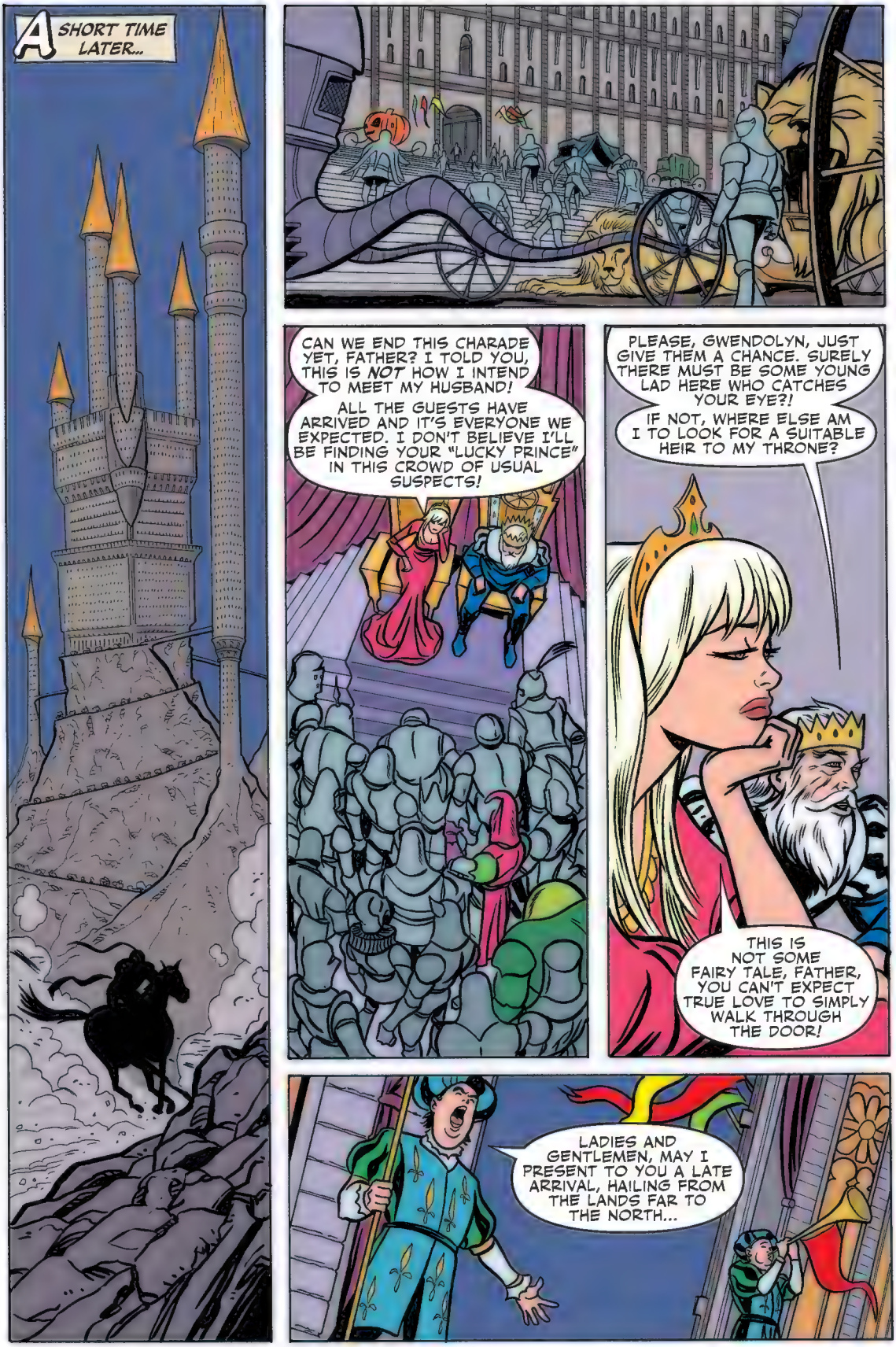
ARMOR'S PRETTY TOUGH TO CLEAN, HUH? NO WONDER THEY DON'T DO IT THEMSELVES.
NOT EVEN A KNIGHT BUT ALREADY THINKING LIKE ONE, I SEE...
I MEAN... WHAT I MEANT WAS...
I'M JUST KIDDING, PETER. YOU NEED TO LIGHTEN UP A BIT.
I DON'T REALLY MIND POLISHING ARMOR.
IT'S JUST THIS ARMOR I HATE DOING.
IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE ARMOR IS DOING ITS JOB THEN. IT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE.
THE OSBORNS CHOSE THE GOBLIN CREST IN ORDER TO STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF THEIR ENEMIES ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
WELL, THAT MAY BE THE CASE, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO DO HARRY MUCH GOOD AT THE KING'S BALL NEXT SATURDAY!
THE KING'S HAVING A BALL NEXT SATURDAY?! HE HASN'T THROWN ONE IN AGES!
MUST REALLY BE A SPECIAL OCCASION...
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD? ALL THE GIRLS ARE BUZZING ABOUT IT. KNIGHTS ARE COMING FROM ACROSS THE LAND!
IT'S WHY LORD OSBORN HAS BEEN SO ON EDGE LATELY!
THE KING IS THROWING THE BALL IN ORDER TO FIND A SUITABLE KNIGHT TO TAKE PRINCESS GWENDOLYN'S HAND IN MARRIAGE!
AND NORMAN'S HELL-BENT ON MAKING SURE SHE PICKS HARRY!

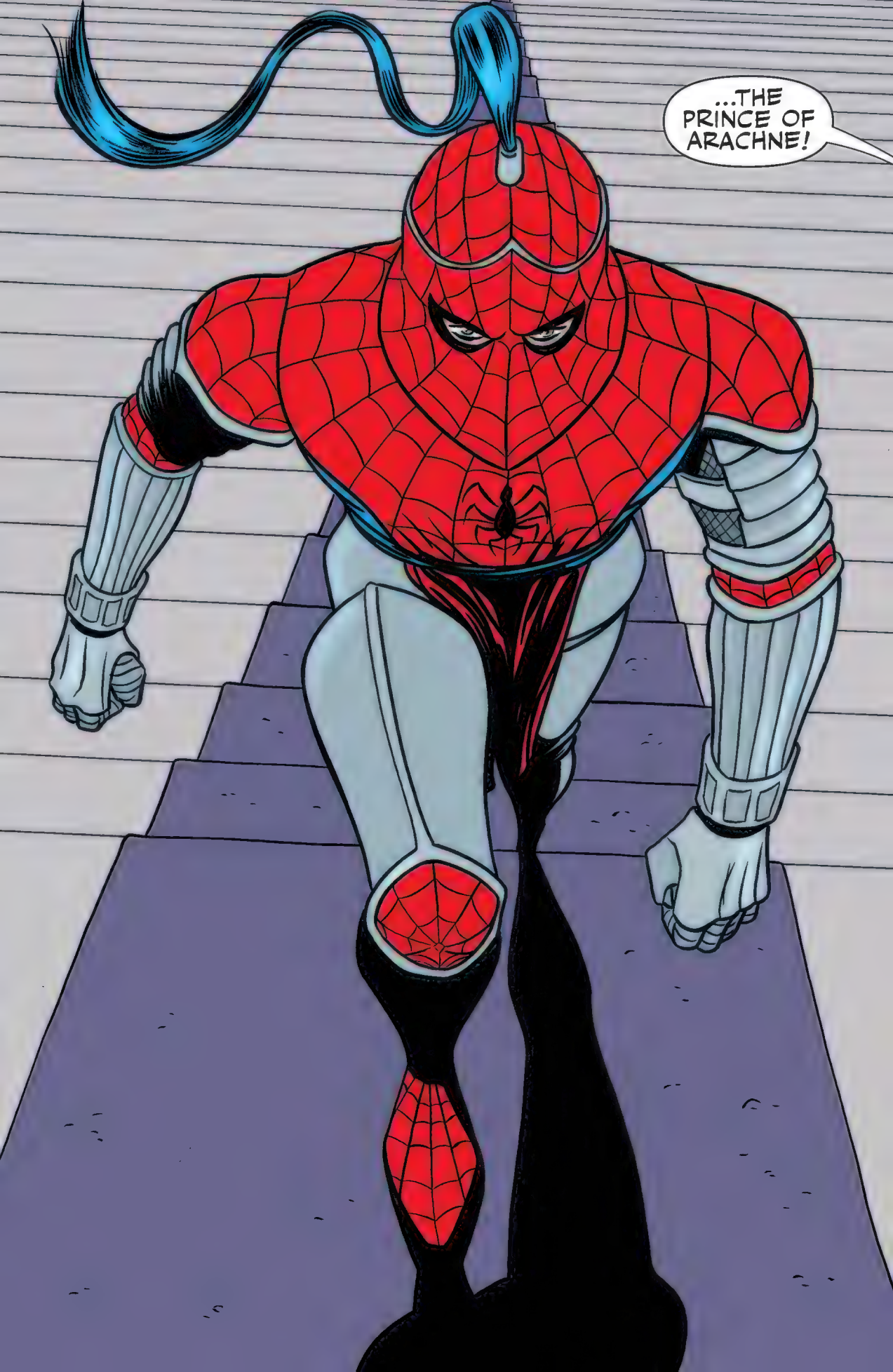
GWENDOLYN?! THE FAIR AND ELEGANT GWENDOLYN IS LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND?
WHICH PART OF "SUITABLE KNIGHT" DID YOU NOT UNDERSTAND?
AND WHAT DOES EVERYONE SEE IN GWENDOLYN, ANYWAY? SHE'S NOT REALLY ALL THAT ELEGANT. AND SHE WALKS RATHER FUNNY, IF YOU ASK ME.
DO YOU REALLY NOT SEE HER BEAUTY? OR THE GRACE WITH WHICH SHE CARRIES HERSELF?
HER SKIN IS LIKE PORCELAIN. SHE SMELLS OF ROSES AND LILAC. HER VOICE IS LIKE THAT OF AN ANGEL...
I'VE GOT TO BE AT THAT BALL, MARY JANE! YOU HAVE TO HELP ME GET IN SOMEHOW!
DO YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS AT THE CASTLE WHO CAN SNEAK ME IN THROUGH THE KITCHEN, OR--
FORGET IT, PETER! I'M IN ENOUGH TROUBLE HERE AS IT IS. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!
COME ON, MARY JANE, PLEASE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND.
WHEN WILL I EVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO MEET THE PERFECT GIRL?

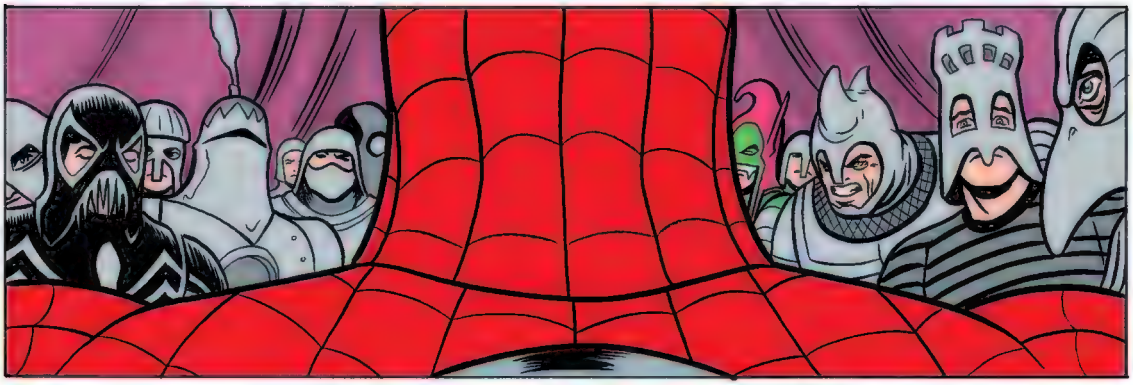

I KNOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I VISITED YOU BOTH, BUT LAST TIME I SWORE I'D ONLY COME BACK WHEN I HAD GOOD NEWS. AND THAT DAY'S FINALLY COME.
THE KING IS THROWING A BALL TO FIND A HUSBAND FOR THE PRINCESS! AND THAT HUSBAND COULD BE ME... ...IF ONLY I WAS... A KNIGHT.
BUT THAT SHOULDN'T STOP ME, RIGHT, FATHER? I MAY NOT BE A TRAINED KNIGHT JUST YET, BUT I'M A PARKER! KNIGHTHOOD IS IN OUR BLOOD!
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING AT NIGHT WITH THE WEAPONRY AND I KNOW I COULD SERVE THE KINGDOM JUST AS HONORABLY AS ANYONE ELSE!
SO I'M GOING TO GO TO THAT BALL AND WIN THE PRINCESS' HAND!
LORD OSBORN WOULD NEVER ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN, THOUGH. HE'D SKIN ME ALIVE IF HE SAW ME THERE.
SO I'M GOING TO GO IN ARMOR OF MY OWN! NOW ALL I NEED IS A CREST!
A SYMBOL THAT WILL STAND FOR SOMETHING! THAT PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER...
JUST AS YOU HAVE WOVEN YOUR WEB CONNECTING THE GRAVES OF MY FATHER AND UNCLE, UNITING THEIR SPIRITS...
...SO SHALL I SPIN ONE OF MY OWN TO CONNECT ME TO MY HERITAGE AND HELP ME CLAIM MY BIRTHRIGHT!

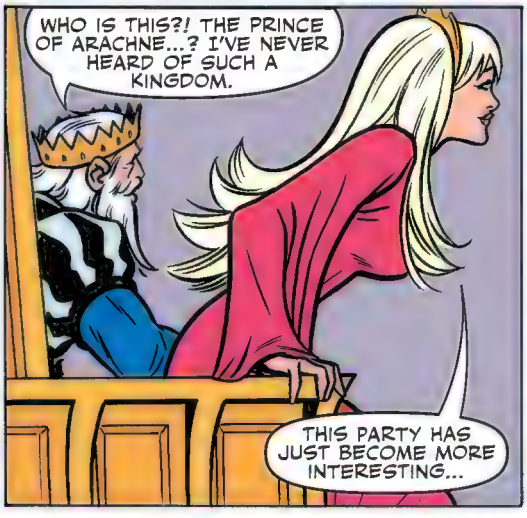
OVER THE NEXT WEEK...
PERFECT!

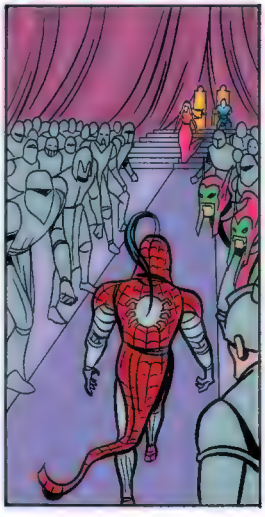

THE NIGHT OF THE ROYAL BALL...
WHERE'S THAT USELESS PARKER BOY?
HE'S NOT COMING TO THE BALL, IS HE, FATHER?
I DON'T PAY FOR ALL THOSE TUTORS FOR YOU TO SOUND LIKE THE VILLAGE IDIOT, HARRY!
HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED, MY LORD! HAVE A WONDERFUL EVENING!
AND THE BEST OF LUCK TO YOU WITH PRINCESS GWENDOLYN, HARRY.
I DON'T NEED LUCK FROM YOU, PEASANT!
YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN LUCK IF YOU EMBARRASS OUR CLAN AND DON'T WIN HER TONIGHT!
AS I'M IN A CELEBRATORY MOOD, I'VE GIVEN THE STAFF THE NIGHT OFF.
LORD, YOU ARE TOO K!--
EXCEPT FOR YOU, PETER. I'LL NEED FOR YOU TO BE A GOOD BOY NOW AND PICK UP THEIR SLACK. WHY DON'T YOU START WITH THE STABLES?
I'LL BE SURE TO STOP BY AND MAKE SURE THEY'RE SPOTLESS WHEN THE CARRIAGE RETURNS US AT MIDNIGHT!
HAHAHAH

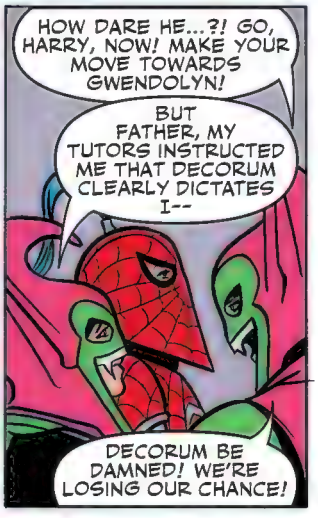

A SHORT TIME LATER...
CAN WE END THIS CHARADE YET, FATHER? I TOLD YOU, THIS IS NOT HOW I INTEND TO MEET MY HUSBAND!
ALL THE GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED AND IT'S EVERYONE WE EXPECTED. I DON'T BELIEVE I'LL BE FINDING YOUR "LUCKY PRINCE" IN THIS CROWD OF USUAL SUSPECTS!
PLEASE, GWENDOLYN, JUST GIVE THEM A CHANCE. SURELY THERE MUST BE SOME YOUNG LAD HERE WHO CATCHES YOUR EYE?!
IF NOT, WHERE ELSE AM I TO LOOK FOR A SUITABLE HEIR TO MY THRONE?
THIS IS NOT SOME FAIRY TALE, FATHER, YOU CAN'T EXPECT TRUE LOVE TO SIMPLY WALK THROUGH THE DOOR!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MAY I PRESENT TO YOU A LATE ARRIVAL, HAILING FROM THE LANDS FAR TO THE NORTH...

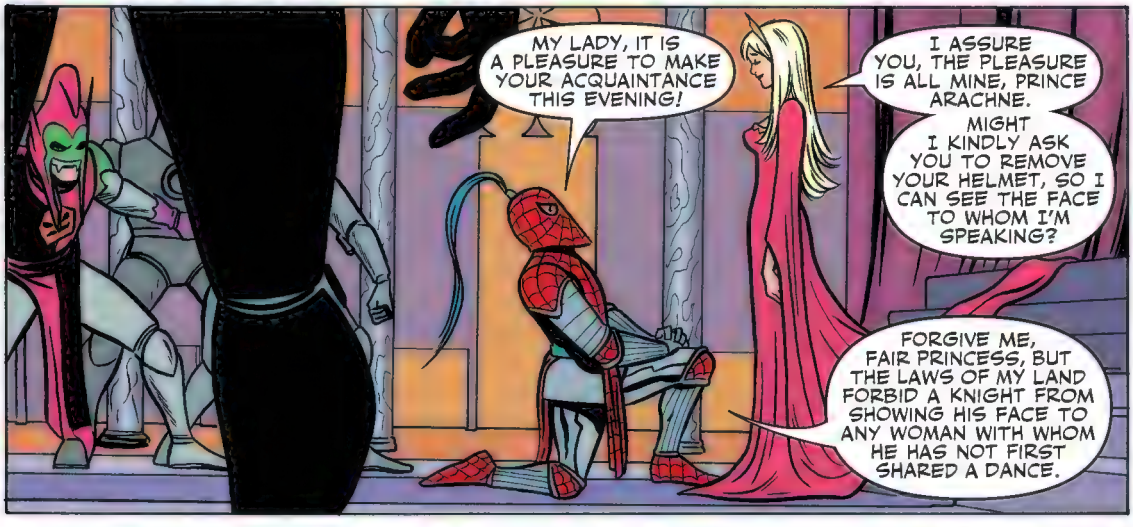

...THE PRINCE OF ARACHNE!

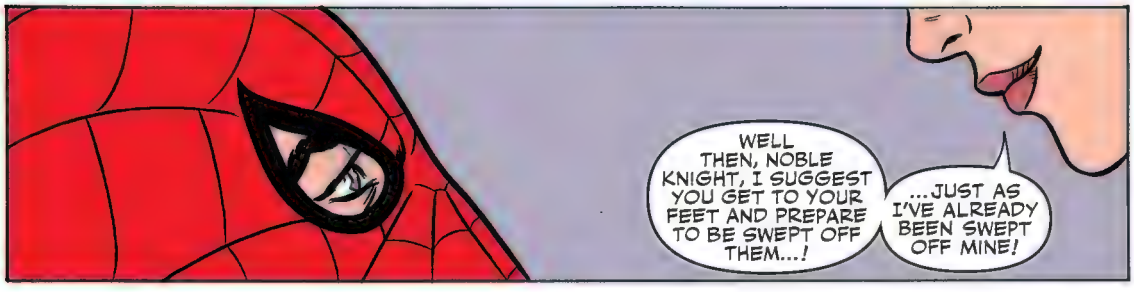



WHO IS THIS?! THE PRINCE OF ARACHNE...? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A KINGDOM.
THIS PARTY HAS JUST BECOME MORE INTERESTING...




HOW DARE HE...?! GO, HARRY, NOW! MAKE YOUR MOVE TOWARDS GWENDOLYN!
BUT FATHER, MY TUTORS INSTRUCTED ME THAT DECORUM CLEARLY DICTATES I--
DECORUM BE DAMNED! WE'RE LOSING OUR CHANCE!


MY LADY, IT IS A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE THIS EVENING!
I ASSURE YOU, THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE, PRINCE ARACHNE.
MIGHT I KINDLY ASK YOU TO REMOVE YOUR HELMET, SO I CAN SEE THE FACE TO WHOM I'M SPEAKING?
FORGIVE ME, FAIR PRINCESS, BUT THE LAWS OF MY LAND FORBID A KNIGHT FROM SHOWING HIS FACE TO ANY WOMAN WITH WHOM HE HAS NOT FIRST SHARED A DANCE.


WELL THEN, NOBLE KNIGHT, I SUGGEST YOU GET TO YOUR FEET AND PREPARE TO BE SWEPT OFF THEM...!
...JUST AS I'VE ALREADY BEEN SWEPT OFF MINE!

YOUR MOVES ARE EXQUISITE. MOST OTHER KNIGHTS I'VE MET KNOW ONLY OF BATTLE.
WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DANCE?
GROWING UP AS THE ONLY BOY AMONG THE SERVANT GIRLS... UMM...
...I MEAN...AMONG MY SISTERS...THE PRINCESSES OF ARACHNE...
...I LEARNED MANY THINGS NOT NORMAL FOR A KNIGHT.
SOUNDS QUITE FAMILIAR. GROWING UP THE ONLY GIRL IN THIS ROYAL FAMILY, I KNOW MY FAIR SHARE ABOUT COMBAT AND WEAPONS.
LESSONS YOU WILL HOPEFULLY NEVER HAVE TO PUT TO USE.
FOR HOPEFULLY I'LL SOON HAVE A KNIGHT LIKE YOU BY MY SIDE TO ALWAYS PROTECT ME...
...AS A HUSBAND DOES HIS WIFE!

I THINK IT'S STILL A BIT EARLY IN THE EVENING TO BE MAKING A DECISION OF THAT NATURE, MY LADY.
IT IS NO LONGER "EARLY", SIR. WE'VE BEEN DANCING FOR HOURS!
HOURS?! WHAT TIME IS IT?
BONG BONG BONG
THE BELL JUST NOW CHIMES MIDNIGHT.
MIDNIGHT?! IT CAN'T BE...
OH, NO!
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR FACE YET...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME!!
I'M SORRY! I HAVE TO GO! YOU... YOU SIMPLY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!
NO, PLEASE DON'T GO! STAY HERE WITH ME!
SNAP
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME...
...MY LOVE!

THE NEXT DAY...
"BY IMPERIAL DECREE OF HIS ROYAL MAJESTY, ANY INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE PRINCE OF ARACHNE AND/OR HIS MATCHING WEBBED BRASSARD MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ROYAL COURT IMMEDIATELY. A SIZEABLE REWARD IS BEING OFFERED FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT WILL LEAD TO THE DISCOVERY OF HIS IDENTITY."
PRINCESS GWENDOLYN MUST HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THAT CAD!
WHAT KEEN POWERS OF OBSERVATION YOU HAVE, MY BOY. ANY IDIOT COULD SEE THE WAY SHE SWOONED OVER THAT LECHEROUS SPIDER-PRINCE!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MARRY PRINCESS GWENDOLYN IF SHE LOVES *HIM?*
THINGS AREN'T OVER FOR US YET, HARRY. THEY OBVIOUSLY DON'T KNOW WHO THE PRINCE IS, MEANING SHE NEVER SAW HIS FACE. SO WE SIMPLY HAVE TO GET TO HIM FIRST!
AND WHEN WE DO FIND HIM...
...WE *KILL HIM,* LEAVING YOU TO STEAL HIS IDENTITY AND WIN THE PRINCESS!

AND I THOUGHT THE STABLES WERE A MESS!
HOW DO YOU LIVE LIKE THIS, PETER? YOU REALLY DO NEED A WOMAN'S TOUCH.
SO IS THIS WHERE YOU LIE AND DREAM ABOUT YOUR BELOVED GWENDOLYN EVERY NIGHT?
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT ELSE--
JUST WHAT'S HE HIDING IN HIS MATTRESS?
>GASP<
THE WEBBED BRASSARD...?! THAT MEANS PETER IS--?!
GIVE ME THE BRASSARD, MARY JANE. I HAVE TO GET RID OF IT!
GET RID OF IT?! PETER, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?
PLEASE, YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW SERIOUS THIS SITUATION IS. SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET KILLED IF WE DON'T--
SLAM

THE PRINCESS FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU, PETER. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GO AND EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
GWENDOLYN FELL IN LOVE WITH THE PRINCE OF ARACHNE! I'M NO PRINCE, MARY JANE. I'M NOT EVEN A KNIGHT!
I'M JUST A SERVANT WHO'S IN WAY OVER HIS HEAD.
IF GWENDOLYN EVER FOUND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT ME, SHE'D--
SHE'D FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU ALL OVER AGAIN.
GO TO HER, PETER. BE WITH HER.
YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH ME, LOOKING LIKE THIS?
NO, I DON'T JUST BELIEVE IT, PETER. I KNOW IT...
...WITH ALL MY HEART!
OH, MARY JANE, I'M SORRY... I NEVER KNEW--
NO, PETER, DON'T SAY ANYTHING. YOU'VE MADE YOUR CHOICE. AND GWENDOLYN'S MADE HERS--
THE PRINCESS MAY HAVE MADE HER CHOICE...
...BUT SHE HAS NO IDEA WHAT HER CHOSEN REALLY LOOKS LIKE!

SO FOR ALL SHE KNOWS, IT WAS ME UNDERNEATH THAT ARMOR AT THE BALL.
AND WHAT SHE DOESN'T KNOW CAN'T HURT HER, CAN IT?
WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU, PARKER!
YOU'RE IN FOR A WORLD OF HURT WHEN MY FATHER HEARS ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
I DON'T WANT TO KEEP THE PRINCESS WAITING ANY LONGER...
HARRY! STOP! YOU CAN'T--
NO, IT'S POINTLESS TO GO AFTER HIM, PETER. LIKE HE SAID, YOU'LL ONLY END UP GETTING HURT!
YOU HAVE TO GO TELL THE KING THE TRUTH BEFORE HARRY GETS THERE.
BUT...
LEAVE OUT THE BACK, GO TO THE STABLES. TAKE A HORSE AND RIDE, PETER!
BE THE KNIGHT THAT SAVES THE PRINCESS!
YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO ME, MARY JANE!
WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR IF NOT FOR LENDING A HELPING HAND, RIGHT?
GOODBYE, PETER...

I'M SORRY WE DID NOT COME FORWARD SOONER, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT MY SON IS A HUMBLE BOY. HOWEVER, I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE...
...YOUR PRINCE HAS RETURNED!
YES, WE'RE WELL AWARE OF THAT, LORD OSBORN.
HOWEVER, UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU...
...HE ARRIVED TEN MINUTES BEFORE YOU DID.
PARKER?! NO, THIS CAN'T BE!
YOUR HIGHNESS, ARE YOU TO TELL ME THAT YOU BELIEVE THE WORD OF THIS PAUPER OVER ONE OF YOUR MOST DECORATED KNIGHTS?
THIS "PAUPER" ALSO HAPPENED TO BE THE SON OF ONE OF MY MOST DECORATED KNIGHTS, GOD REST HIS SOUL.
HE HAS ALREADY PROVEN TO GWENDOLYN THAT HE WAS DISGUISED AS THE PRINCE OF ARACHNE AT THE BALL.
HE LIED TO US ALL! CARRIED ON AN ELABORATE DECEPTION IN YOUR OWN THRONE ROOM!
I'M SURE HE HAD HIS REASONS, OSBORN... REASONS I'M INCLINED TO BELIEVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU!
GWENDOLYN HAS CHOSEN HER PRINCE AND I AM IN NO POSITION TO DENY MY ONLY DAUGHTER HER HEART'S DESIRE!
THEN ALLOW ME TO DENY HER FOR YOU!
CLANG
FATHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
PETER!

ALREADY HAVE YOUR OWN SWORD?
I'M THE PRINCE NOW. IT COMES WITH THE JOB!
GUARDS, QUICKLY! STOP THIS MAN!
I'LL KILL YOU!
WHISSH
PLEASE STOP!
YOU'RE A FOOL, JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER!
HACK
SHRIIP
HAHAHAHA
PETER, NO!

OH, NO, GWENDOLYN.... WHY? WHY?!
NO!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
YOU! YOU'VE BROUGHT ME NOTHING BUT MISERY MY WHOLE LIFE!
NO MORE!
SLASH
FATHER! NOOO!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, PARKER! HE WAS ALL I HAD AND YOU TOOK HIM FROM ME!
MY WHOLE WORLD'S BEEN TAKEN FROM ME TODAY AS WELL.

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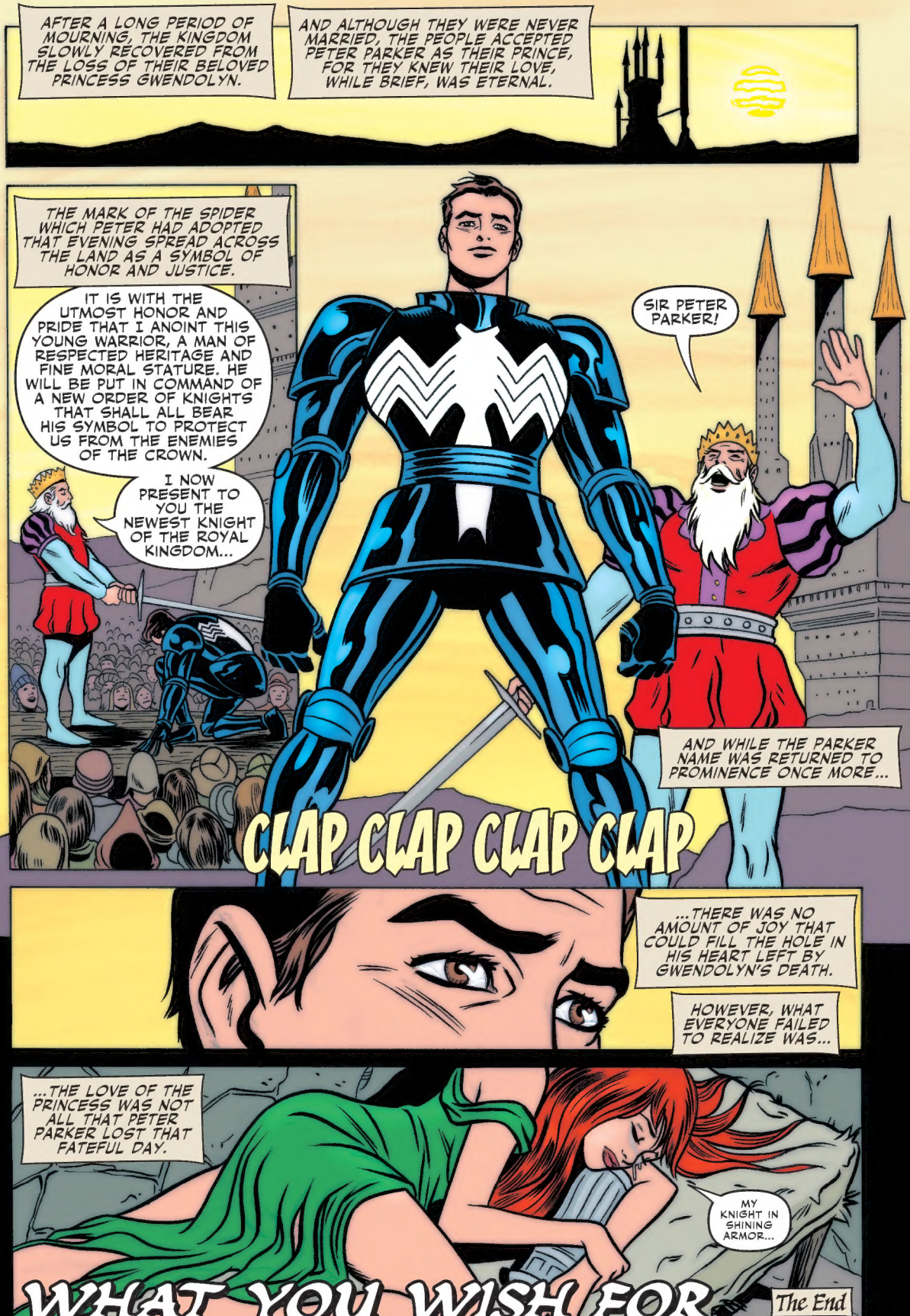
AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF MOURNING, THE KINGDOM SLOWLY RECOVERED FROM THE LOSS OF THEIR BELOVED PRINCESS GWENDOLYN.
AND ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NEVER MARRIED, THE PEOPLE ACCEPTED PETER PARKER AS THEIR PRINCE, FOR THEY KNEW THEIR LOVE, WHILE BRIEF, WAS ETERNAL.
THE MARK OF THE SPIDER WHICH PETER HAD ADOPTED THAT EVENING SPREAD ACROSS THE LAND AS A SYMBOL OF HONOR AND JUSTICE.
IT IS WITH THE UTMOST HONOR AND PRIDE THAT I ANOINT THIS YOUNG WARRIOR, A MAN OF RESPECTED HERITAGE AND FINE MORAL STATURE. HE WILL BE PUT IN COMMAND OF A NEW ORDER OF KNIGHTS THAT SHALL ALL BEAR HIS SYMBOL TO PROTECT US FROM THE ENEMIES OF THE CROWN.
I NOW PRESENT TO YOU THE NEWEST KNIGHT OF THE ROYAL KINGDOM...
SIR PETER PARKER!
AND WHILE THE PARKER NAME WAS RETURNED TO PROMINENCE ONCE MORE...
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
...THERE WAS NO AMOUNT OF JOY THAT COULD FILL THE HOLE IN HIS HEART LEFT BY GWENDOLYN'S DEATH.
HOWEVER, WHAT EVERYONE FAILED TO REALIZE WAS...
...THE LOVE OF THE PRINCESS WAS NOT ALL THAT PETER PARKER LOST THAT FATEFUL DAY.
MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR...
WHAT YOU WISH FOR
The End

C.B. CEBULSKI & MINDY OWENS-WRITERS * NICK DRAGOTTA-PENCILER * MIKE ALLRED-INKER
LAURA ALLRED - COLORIST * ARTMONKEYS' DAVE LANPHEAR - LETTERER
MOLLY LAZER-EDITOR * JOE QUESADA-EDITOR IN CHIEF * DAN BUCKLEY-PUBLISHER